

Re: General Situation among Ukrainians in the Presov region of CSSR

Source: An American tourist of Ukrainian descent.

Date: 2 July 1970

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

DATE 2007

1. Source visited CSSR in mid June 1970 and was present at the festival of Ukrainian Dance and Song in Svidnik on 20-21 June. On this occasion he met several Ukrainians from Presov and the Presov area, among them Dr. Jurij Bacha, Pavel Durkot, Dr. Mykola Mushinka, Volodymyr Krajniak, Josef Storinsky, Fedir Vitso. He also met several young Ukrainian people from Poland. According to Source the situation in CSSR has changed remarkably to the worse. There is now an atmosphere of severe anxiety, insecurity and almost fear. The people became much more cautious and reluctant in showing their acquaintanceship with visitors from the West. Nevertheless they gladly accepted books and magazines brought them by Source.

(Jurij BACHA)

2. During a private conversation with Source, Joe told him that he is suspended from the party and that all university professors are being investigated for their activities in 1968. Each individual investigated is facing 4 alternatives.
- Remain in the party as before and being granted a new party card.
 - Suspension of party membership with a final decision to be reached at a latter time.
 - "Dropping out" from the party.
 - Expulsion from the party; this is the worst alternative and might be followed by a trial.

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Joe told Source that he has also been relieved of his position in KSUT, as have been Pavel Durkot, Fedir Vitso and Volodymyr Krajniak. There is a widespread feeling that trials will be held in Prague against leaders of the liberalization movement and these trials will most likely spread to Bratislava and then Presov. Joe feels that he might be arrested and tried. He and others complained against a certain Mychaylo Hudzey (?) who allegedly is now the chief de-facto of the SB with headquarters in Prague. He was sent there from Ukraine. Joe feels that he might be relieved of his job in the near future and moved to a "research job". By September he might completely be "unemployed". In this case, he would contemplate escaping to the West with his family. He feels that the best way would be through Yugoslavia, however he is quite certain that he will not be able to obtain permission to visit Yugoslavia this summer as planned. He also mentioned that he would appreciate some help from his friends in the West.

3. As regards the situation in Ukraine, Joe told Source that the pressure is being applied very strongly on dissidents. He warned Source not to attempt

to bring anything across the border into Ukraine because it is very dangerous now. According to Joe, Horyn' Bohdan is not working in professional field, but as a night watchman, where he reads very much. Joe did not know about V. Moroz's arrest and about the "Program of Democrats of Russia, Ukraine and the Baltic countries".

4. The last poem written by Pavlo Tychyna is presently being passed from hand to hand in Ukraine and became one of the most desirable samvydav materials.

5. In a conversation with another Ukrainian from Presov, Source was told that western visitors to Czechoslovakia should try to attract as little attention to themselves as possible, and while in Svidnik, they should pretend that they were from Poland. He also warned against taking too many photographs of individuals or groups of people as this attracts attention of the S.B.